

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending, with claims 1, 11 and 16 being independent claims. Claims 11-14 are allowed. Claims 7 and 8 are allowable. Claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 12-14 have been amended.

The drawings have been objected to. A replacement sheet of FIG. 1 diagrammatically illustrating a plurality of lifting devices is submitted for the Examiner's approval. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejected claims have been appropriately amended to overcome the basis for §112, second paragraph rejection, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,945,598 (Enright).

The inventive device provides for controllably altering a frictional force between a wheel 34 and a test bench 20 by utilizing a device 1 operable to selectively lift and lower the wheel relative to the test bench. To rotationally decouple wheel 34 from device 1, a wheel adapter 2 is rotatably fixed to the wheel and rotates relative to a bearing unit 4 which, in, turn, is fixed to device 1. See Specification, page 8, paragraph [0014].

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a wheel adapter coupling a wheel to a means for changing a frictional force so that the wheel adapter is rotatable relative to this means.

Enright fails to teach or suggest a wheel adapter, as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and benefit from its patentability. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-3 are respectfully requested.

New claim 16 corresponds to claim 7 indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 17 corresponds to original claim 8 and depends from claim 16. Accordingly, both claims 16 and 17 are in allowable form.

Claims 4-6 and 10 depending from claim 1 and currently amended so as to overcome the Examiner's rejection based on formal grounds are placed in allowable form as well.

Thus, this amendment is presented to place the application in form for allowance and issue, an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement sheet of FIG. 1 showing a plurality of lifting and lowering devices recited in claim 10 is submitted herewith.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet (FIG. 1)